# THE LAST CONFLICTS and DEATH

OF

Mr THOMAS PEACOCK,
Batchelour of Divinity, and
fellow of Brasen-nose Colledge in Oxford:

Published by E.B. from the Copy of that famous Divine,
Mr Robert Bolton, late Minister of Broughton in North-hampton-shire.

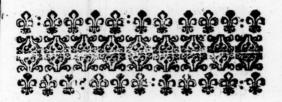


LONDON,
Printed by George Miller dwelling
in Black-Fryers. 1646.



C. B. W. B. D.

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#### THE PREFACE TO the READER.

Christian Reader,

Had not performed 3 a trust, had not I published this ensuing Narrative; and I had not paid a debt

which I doe and shall ever one to the Publike, had not I made it common. Mr Bolton (a man of precious memory, and famous in his generation) desired me upon his death-bed, to publish such of his papers as I thought fit for the Presse, which I have already done. This copy being found amongst them, (though 2 penned

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penned by another hand) I durst not withhold, being to my knowledge intended by him for the prese, in memory of his familiar friend, and spirituall father, M' Thomas Peacock; who was a very Godly Minister of Christ, and of rare example for humility and holines of life, for a Religious care in educating his scholars, and for exceeding charity to the bodies and souls of poor distressed Christians. yet this godly man, that for piety had in him the root of an Oak, when God cast him upon his bed of sicknes, and suffered Satan to winnow him, he was no more in his hands then a leaf to sed too and fro with the winde. Gods dealings with him in these his last constitts, are of singular use in these present times, in which the ends of the world, and the dreggs of schisme and sinne are come upon us at once.

First,

# to the Reader.

First, for caution to the true fervants of God, to take heed of [mall sinnes; for from the lesser sinnes and infirmities of Mr Peacock, the Devil did thence take a rife to cast him into the most bitter spirituall desertion that we shall lightly read of : under which he had sunk, had not God wonderfully pat to his hand, by making the issue of his afflictions more glorious and comfortable, then the combate was grievous and terrible. It was a memorable faying of Francis Spira, which he pake to his mournfull children and friends, beholding that [ad feetacle of his finall despaire, earnestly wishing them to take heed of committing the smallest sinnes against conscience; By this means, saith he, I fell into greater sinnes, till I came to deny the Gospel of Christ, and after that to renounce it in writing, and deliberately to sub-

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fcribe to it with my hand, though (faith he) I heard a voice in my conscience telling me, Spira, doe not subscribe it; after which I thought I heard the voice of Christ whom I denyed before men, to pronounce the sentence of death upon my soul, and to exclude me from salvation. And thus he dyed.

Secondly, for confutation of sundry soris in Religion, in these unhappy dayes of Civillwarre, as naturally producing them as mud and filth doe toads and vermin. Some there are that quite abrogate the Law, which Christ came to fulfill, and so make the gate of Heaven wider then ever our Saviour made it, by admitting lawlesse persons into it. Holy Bradford was of another minde, who was wont to say, that the gate of Heaven was so strait, that he which halted could

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could not enter into it; and the way so narrow, that he which reeled could not walk in it. Others there are, who though they doe not wholly destroy the law, yet they cast it into a dead sleep, thinking it unlawfull in the children of God to be forry, or to mourn for sinne, contrary to the Doctoine of the primitive Fathers, teaching this lesson, Semper doleat pænitens, & de dolore gaudeat; Let the penitent person alwaies mourn, and rejoyce in that mourning; agreeing with the rule of our Saviour, Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Nay, I lately heard it not without horrour; that some men, in outward appearance of great fanctity,
doe hold an opinion, that it is a
fault in godly men to pray for pardon of sin, (all sinnes being pardoned in Christ before they pray) conA 4. trany

### The Preface.

Forgive us our trespasses. Neither M<sup>r</sup> Peacock, nor any of those godly Divines that came to comfort him, knew this kinde of Doctrine; neither we, nor the Churches of God, till within these few late unhappy

dayes.

What will become of our reformed Religion, streaming down to us in the blood of so many Martyrs, if God by amiracle of mercy should not shorten these our miserable dayes? For whiles some are taking from us the Ten Commandements, others, the Lords Prayer, there is Scarce any thing left us of Christianity but our Creed, and how long we shall enjoy this, the Lord in Heaven knowes. For so long as the civill sword of marre devoures so much Protestants blood from withont, and a worse civill warre of sinne and separation, destroyes so

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many Protestant souls from within, we may justly feare that we shall either want sound Orthodox Protestants to maintain it; or we shall want a Creed for them to maintain.

I shall, for conclusion, desire that: Reader into whose hands this ensuing discourse shall fall, to observe three things concerning M. Peacock, a man whom I well knew, and blesse God that ever I knew him.

afflictions doe very often befall the dearest and choisest servants of God: I mean, not outward and temporall afflictions, common to good and bad: but inward and spirituall afflictions, and the heaviest of these spirituall desertions, whereby God withdrawes his glorious countenance from his children: and Saturnia liem thereof, shews them his

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ugly visage, thereby convincing a secure world. That it is no easy matter to goe to Heaven, and that the safest and surest way to it, is to sayl by the gates of Hell. If the righteous can scarcely be saved (saith the Apostle) where shall the wicked and sinner appear?

of Gods children, doe usually determine in the highest consolations. And hereby the wicked, who like ravening wolves hunt after such opportunities, doe misse of their prey, and returne ashamed when they consider what end God hath made. And thus it fell out with Mr Peacock here.

3. Lastly, Though a spirituall desertion be the highest affliction that befalls Gods childe; yet it discovers in him the greatest sincerity of an upright heart; For at such a time he is so farre from hiding his sinnes,

# to the Reader.

sinnes, that he cares not what shame he puts upon himself, so God may have glory. For in a firituall desertion, though the soul of a Christian be extreamly distressed. through the terrour of sinne; yet at: the same time bath it a true touch of grace, though not of the comforts of it: like iron touched with the Load-stone, it stands directly Northward, though with much trembling: So do: hthe foul of a Christian stand directly Heaven-ward in this hellish azony: and the absence of God and of his consolations, is the cause of those bitter convulsionfits in the foul. And assoon as ever the comforts of grace shine upon it, those former tremblings of heart for grief, are presently changed into leapings for joy; just as the same wrinkles of the face, which serve for crying when the heart is grieved, serve for laughter when it is filled with.

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mith joy. This was the case of Mr Peacock, in this manner he grieved, in this manner he rejoyced, and this bappy issue God made of his bitter afflictions. So that amidst the numerous and various afflictions of Gods dear Saints and Children, this conclusion of the Prophet David remaines sure and sirm, Mark the upright man, and behold the just, for the end of that man is peace. So I rest,

Thine in the Lord

E.B.



# M' PEACOKS Visitation.

After Peasock, the fervant of God, in the beginning of his vifitation, for the space

of two weeks and foure dayes, was full of most Heavenly confolations; shewing by sweet meditations, and gracious ejaculations, the entertainment he found with his God in his sicknes, with whom he so much desired to be acquainted in his health. We are (saith one comming to visit him) miserable comforters:

Nay (saith he) Te are good, for this

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is the priviledge even of Gods children, that their very presence af-fords comfort. Sometimes he craved pardon for his actions, & for the circumstances by them badly observed: otherwhile he defired to have some matter given him to meditate upon. Finally he faid, his hope was firmly setled on the rock Christ fefus. He hoped that the Lord would give him a place, though it were in the lowest room of his Saints. And he thanked God he had no trouble of conscience, the Lord did not fuffer Satan to vex him; Info much that fome seeing his great comfort, feared lest he would be overtaken with forrow. before his death: he much rejoyced that the Lord had so disposed of him, that he had seen his frieds in the Countrey. Here first was his yeelding unto death suspected,

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suspected, and his hoped recovery doubted. Calling fome of his friends afide, I thought (faith he) I had been in a good estate, but I see it now farre otherwise : For these things my conscience layes against me : First, I brought up my Scholars in Gluttony, letting the eat their fill of meat, when they mealed with me. This some endeavoured. to pull out, by putting into his. minde, 1. The preventing of many inconveniencies. 2. His well known moderation. 3. The great care he took for good conference, when they were at table with him. But (faith he) while I was talking, they did undoe themselves. And further, I did unadvisedly expound places of Scripture at the table many times; and for these I feel now a Hellin my conscience. Again, I have procured my own death, by often eating like a beast, when.

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when I came jostling up and down tomy friends in the Countrey; And now I see before my face those dishes of meat wherewith I clogged my stemack. Well (saith one to him) If all the things you accuse your felf of were undone, would you doe them again? Nay: why then doubt not but a Reprobate would desire to be saved, if a desire would ferve the turne: indeed he may. have a defire, but of bare willingnes, not with an intent and purpose in using of the means. Another time a worthy friend of his asking him how he did: he cryed out, Sinne, Sinne, Sinne : What doth any lye on your conscience? Yea. What? My unconsideratenes, I did eat too much of such meat to breakfast such a morning: my felf being an eye-witnes of his great abstinence, could not choose but admire the tendernes

of his felf-accusing conscience. Well (said he) God be thanked there is no greater. As we must not extenuate our finnes, fo neither must we too much aggravate our sinne. Let drunkards and gluttons have those terrible horrours. I thank God I never continued in any known sinne against my conscience. He was willing that he should pray with him: kneeling down he faid, he was then uncapable of prayers. Afterward he kneeled down of his own accord: shortly after he broke out into fuch speeches, A damnable, wretched &c. these are nor your words (faith one) you cannot deny but you have had goodexperience of Gods mercies. I cannot. Then be comforted, for whom he loveth once, he loveth to the end. Yet Satan took such advantage of his infirmities, that though

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though he could finde fome comfort, yet no particular assurance. You have lived profitably (faid one) I have endeavoured. You are now humbled, and the Lord looks that you should ask mercy. M. Dod was fent for, who being come, they were private awhile, afterwards we comming in to them, M. Dod put him in minde of Gods kindenes: whereof he shewed to him foure parts. 1. To take small things in good part. 2. To passe by infirmities. 3. To be easily intreated. 4. To be intreated for the greateft.

Sir, there is now in you the image of the old Adam, fin and forrow: there shall be in you the image of the new, holines and happinesse. The life to come may be set out by three things.

1. Theestate of itself, happines, holines,

holines, and glory. 2. By the the company, every one shall love you better then any one, even the best, can love you here.

3. The place.

There are three differences between the afflictions of the good and of the bad. 1. In the cause, for they come to the good for Gods love. 2. In the measure, as farre as they need, and are able to bear. 3. In the end, for

their good.

Of those former doubts we afterwards heard not a word from him. Upon the Sabbath-day he desired to be alone: after noon he was fearfully troubled. In his countenance appeared evident tokens of a forrowfull minde, born up with a weak body; his spirit was wounded, Satan had foiled him. Those his terrible wrestlings with tentati-

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ons, gripes of conscience, and reftles terrours, none can understand, (much lesse expresse) but he which felt them. Satan had winnowed him, and shewed him nothing but chaffe. His tender conscience was goared with the fiery darts of the Devil, pointed with the edge of finne, and fense of Gods heavy wrath. As through a false glasse, the dazled eye of his aftonished and amazed foul, could fee nothing but hideously appearing sinne, and the terrible image of death and damnation. He had drunk deeply of the cup of the dreggs of Hell. His adversary had represented unto him his once most gracious God, now as a most severe Judge displeased, angry,

angry, and chiding with him, yea yeelding him up into his clawes: that so by this deadly stratagem, he might take from him all hope of help that way, and fo not onely stop the fenfible flowing of Gods grace, and cut the chains of Gods love, whereby he had tyed him, and would draw him after him, but finally break his Christian heart. Oh that you had feen, or that we that were present had had eyes to have feen his feeming forlone foul. What with barkings of consci-ence, and with the too heavy burthen of sinne, vvaves of fearfull thoughts, blustering blasts, and sur-ging storms of Gods hea-vy displeasure, he vvas

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toffed, turmoyled, dashed against the rocks of despaire, and more then in danger of his souls shipwrack: happy were we if neither through frowardnes, nor blindenes of judgement, we did inconsiderately passe by, or prophanely deride Gods judgements, by thinking that they either happen casually, or by forgetting of them suddenly. we could but rightly discerne it, we should finde nothing more profitable, then to have the Image of this gracious (though now afflicted) foul in our hearts. Hereby we may see that the righteous being scarcely faved, there is no place for the wicked and ungodly to appeare. And truly we may think that God sent it even for our lake, that we (with whom it is too usuall to dally with the Lord ) might know that

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that it is a fearfull thing to fall into his hands. Our faith is then tryed in earnest, when as the Lord hideth his face from us. For if we love God above all things, it cannot be but upon the losse of the relish of his favour, or taste of his displeasure, our fouls should be in bitternes, pricked, tormented, wounded, thrust thorow, yea, and swallowed up with desolation. It is a wonder of the world, how we carefully will feek physick, use dyet, by any means to avoid a bodily pang, and how careles we are of the unsupportable fits of the fouls mortall ficknes. It is not in our power to apprehend grace when we will, and a hardermatter is it then we can conceive, to lift up a poor foul cast down with the sense of Gods If a violent passion may

so farre transport the minde, what may we think of this restles trembling, when the foul after long toffings, feeth it self drowned, and wholly overwhelmed with the deluge of forrow, proceeding from the everlasting threats, and shame, and confusion of face in the presence of the Almighty? Confider the body loaden with a burthen, neither portable nor evitable; and thence gather the stranglings of an overladen soul. Consider a man ready to fall from an high Tower unto the Earth; and thence gather the estate of another falling from Heaven to Hell with a spirituall tuine. Confidera childe, when the mother hideth her face from it, and terrifieth it with a Bugboe; and herein take view of the estate of a poor Christian (whose cheifest

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chiefest happines having therein confisted, (to wit) in being joyned, and united to his Heavenly Father, having now lost his prefence, or being affrighted with the Devil, as if he were ready to lay hands on him. Confider the estate of a debtor, cast off by his best Creditours: and gather that of a Christian being bankerout with his God. Consider the estate of a man, once in favour, afterwards adjudged to death by a Prince, without hope of pardon or repriving: and gather that of a Christian, who after his citation and arraignment at the Tribunal seat of God, stands condemned, and is wholly deprived of obtaining pardon, and delivered into the hands of the Devil. The Lord needs not to feek wilde beafts to punish us, or fuch like cruell executioners

ners of his wrath to torment us, he may finde enough within us; all the furyes and Devils cannot invent a more greivous torment: One by it apprehended needeth not more accusers or tormentours. His many never-thoughts of finne (as if he stirred a nest of wasps) come buzzing about his eares, and as a man indebted oncelaid hold of, make him faster daily: his loving friends may stand by the prison and callhim, but he being fast fettered, cannot You shall see him Stirre forth. now in his purgatory, (not that papisticall sinne-satisfying fiction, the Popes jayle) but that hot fiery furnace wherein the Lord trieth his metall, whether it be good or reprobate. And sup-pose that he had died at the worst (as in the Lords justice he might, to the hardening of those that

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that will not be foftened) As no man should rather judge him by the inch of his death, then the length of his life; so I for my part neither did in him, nor doe in my felf so much feare his death, as I did, and doe defire Mistire. You may observe the courses which God taketh in vifiting his children to be divers : some are comfortable and without any great admixture of difcomfort: others heavy, but without horrour: others horrible, yet all of them are in the iffue gracious. But to leave any further digression, and to come again to the matter in hand.

When one came unto him, he brake out into these words, oh how wofull and miserable is my eftate, that thus must converse with hel-hounds! He being with these words strangely moved, went

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to call some of his best able friends to comfort him. To them he complayned, that the Lord had cursed him. Being demanded how he knew it: he anfwered, Why! the event sheweth it. It being replyed, Then fuch and fuch were curled the answered, I have no graces Flow doe those then : they once had none. I was a foolish glorious Hypocrite; It is against the course of Gods proceeding to Save me, he hath otherwise decreed, he cannot. Put your trust in God. Icannot, no more then an horse. Doe you desire to beleive? No more then a post, then an horsshoe. I know you cannot deny but that you have fought Gods glory. Not sincerely. There is a secret mixture of pride and hypocrify, even in the best. I have no more sense of grace then these curtains, then

then a goose, then that block. Let the testimony of your life past comfort you, especially in the calling of a Tutour. I did the busine fe thereof perfunitorily, when I handled hard Authours, I came often unprepared, and read shamefully, Be of good courage, and the Lord will comfort your heart. It is ended, there is no such matter. Why doe you think fo? You shall see the event, God will yet bring it to passe. Tush, tuih, trifles. What doe you think of your former Doctrine? Very good. Let it comfort you. It sannot. You desire it could. It it might. There is nothing unpossible to God. Which stands with his decree: Oh, oh, miscrable, and wofull, the burthen of my sinne lyeth heavy upon me : I doubt it will break my heart. Behold your comforts. Nothing to me, I pray

you hold your peace, doe not trouble your self idly, you vex me, your words are as daggers to my heart. Another time fome of the younger fort said to him, Remember, Sir, the good counfels that you have given us heretofore. Those were ordinary. Your may fee many others in the like estate. Not such as mine. See David. What doe you peak to me of David? Good Sir, endeavour to fettle your minde; Yes, to play with hell-hounds. Will you pray? I cannot. You were wont heretofore. Yes, by a custom and vain glory. Suffer us to pray for you. Take not the name of God in van, by praying for a Reprobate. Here you may see the glory of Ged preferred before his own salvation, rather willing to have the means of his falvation neglected, then the Lord dishonoured. Suffer

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fer us to pray for our selves. Look to it, you would now shew your faculty in praying. Can you say, Amen? No, but in a certain gerall fashion. One prayed, and in the mean time he rested most quietly. I pray you (faith he, When prayer was ended) Goe hence to bed, doe not trouble your selves in vain. Let not the Devil delude you, abusing your minde and tongue, I know you speak not these words. I wonder that intelligent Scholars should speak thus. We are perswaded you are in as good estate as our selves. Look how it is with your selves in truth. One that watched with him, asked him, Sir, how can you discern this change by the absence of God, if you never enjoyed his presence? I thought I had it once, but now I fee it is farre otherwise. But God deals with BA you-

you, as he dealt with the Church, Isa.54.7. He forsook it a while, and hid his face from it, but he returned to it again, and so (no doubt) the case stands with you. Never, add not affliction to the afflicted; ohme wretch! groaning pitifully. Hope no worse of your felf, then we doe of you. All of us have feen cleerly which way your carriage was fill fent, after the spirit : and we are assured that you will come to the spirit, howsoever you seem to have lost your way. To all particulars he would antwer, I defire grace generally, I did good outwardly, all hypocritically. One asked him, Doe you love fuch an one? his most dear, and worthy to be dear friend. Yes. Why? For his goodnes. Why then you are Gods childe, for by this we know we are translated from death

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death to life, because we own the brethren. Many like forcible: proofs he would shift off with his former evalions, and afterwards became more wary against himself, either loth to grant any thing, or granting it staggeringly, or, what then? fearing left he should be pressed, he wished, that some were put in minde, 1. Of their great care for building, and too small care for Scholars in them. 2. Their giving fo long leave of absence from the Colledge, and defired amendment.

After noon came a worthy Drager Governous of a Colledge in our of Queens University, and requested him Colledge, to be of good comfort, and to pluck up his spirit. I cannot. Why can you not Because I have no grace, no more then a Back-speck. Why doe you think so

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By this affliction. Doe you defire grace? I cannot. (He spake most Atrongly) I can as well leap over the Church. But are you not forry that you cannot defire it? Icannot. Would you not be in Heaven? I would not. One standing by, laid, The Devil himself would, if he could. " By "the way, you shall have the o-"pinion of a much respe-"Cted Minister apposite hereto, "which he gave in private. A roud man, faith he, will "fcorne to feek any good from "his enemy: so the Devils pride will not let him think himself "beholding to God for Heaven, "if he might get it. You have (said one) the testimony of faith, you love the Brethren. I did not. Doe not you love us? No. \* The Devil now feeth he should be cast into straits, if you fhould

This conclusion was fastered on him before, which wow he

should grant this; what is it thasdoth most trouble you? I undertook too much upon me foolishly: I had gotten a little Logick and Greek, and meanly instructed in the rules, did set my self to read to Scholars; and afterwards undertook other busines, which distracted my minde and body from them, I have destroyed a thousand souls. You may fee the falsehood of him that suggesteeth this unto you: you never had a thousand: he puts a false glasse before you. The good effects of your pains appears in many of your Scholars. Oh they were of themselves capable. Name one in whom they doe not ? There is one. (pointing at a Master of Arts there prefent ) He justified his care of him, and gave thanks to God that ever he came to him. It to not so, I did foolishly. You confesse

fesse you did foolishly, therefore not ofmalice. Again, cofider what would have become of many of them if you had not taken them. Better, farre better. All in the Colledge know the contrary. But I. feel it. It is false, believe not the Devil. It is too true. When will you make amends? God will give you your hearts defire. Never. Are you forry that he will not? No, there is no grace in. my heart: it is dead. Such was Davids case. What doe you compare me with him? Behold Christ himself. Nothing to me. God can make his death available. He cannot. He is omnipotent. In me he cannnot, because it stands with his purpose. Whom God loveth once, he loveth to the end. But he did never love me, You have tasted of his love. I deceived my self in a certain vainglory :

glory: 1 exposed my head to many things, outwardly all. You could fay the Lords Prayer, and therein call him Father. Hypocritically I was wont to enquire of Master Mason, what was meant by Abba-father; rather in curiosity, then truly to be edified. God will give a good iffue. Never, I have no senfe. We will pray with you. Doe not dishonour God. It is well that you will not have God dishonoured: here he sticked, saying, I pray trouble me not with distinctions. After came one, who with vehement action of body, preffed and urged him to trust in God. Icannot (faid he) Icannot, he will not have me faved, his sentence is passed. Doe you defire to be faved? No. Do you desire to desire ? No. Would you be damned?

No. Look at the finnes of other men as great as yours, and yet they are faved. They were good and godly, they found grace: here is the difference, my sinnes are horrible: he repeated that towards his Scholars. All ofus know you took pains. Outwardly you did your best. No. I see novy what it is, you firially look back to your own actions, as a Justiciary, who will none of Gods mercy, and now he hath justly met with you, your judgement is just. These words affected him strangely: another willed him to look to it, it feemed neer Popery. Doe you hope to be justified by your merits? I fear other asked, whether he could fay, Amen? No. Have you no tongue? What is that to the purpose? Name Jesus, I cannot.

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If I had your tongue in my hand, I would make you speak. Turning his speech to a friend present, oh (saith he) if you did but feel my greif but an houre, you would have compassion. The other replyed, If you were in the fire you would wish to get out. I had rather be in the fire then here. I will pray for you. Sinne not. Let the fault be mine.

Although my purpose was barely to relate the passages of this gracious mans visitation, and to referre to your spirituall eyes what you could tracke and finde therein, yet let your gentle construction withhold from me the deserved censure of bold blindnes, in that now and then I point at some things which your quick sight may sooner or better apprehend. The Devils malicious policy was great toward him

him, in that he affaulted him most strongly in that, which might and ought to have been his greatest comfort. Again, I faw that the opinion of the Phyfician helps fomewhat in bodily maladies or diseases, whereas in that his estate, his foul remained as it were uncapable of comfort from the fouls Physician. He much respected some few. He dolefully poured out his foul in the bosome of a well willer, on this manner; I took upon me too proudly many things, and being negligent, performed nothing : oursed be the day when I took Scholars. If I had not taken them, I had been happy; with a great flourish, I was Stirring many wayes, and in the mean pace left the essence of my calling, teaching Scholars. What, faith the other, what shall I now. doe, when I see you thus tossed ? Well,

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Well, for I was an Hypocrite, and now therefore there is no hope of comfort for me in Gods presence: I have no sense of it. The sunne is in the firmament, though it may be hid in a cloud. This comparison agreeth not to me. What then would you counsell me to doe? Abide within the bounds of your calling: take not too much on you, and the Lord wilt blesse you. Will it avail me to hear sermons. Yes, if you mean to be fared. What good shall I reap thence? Nothing from the bare hearing. Oh, this heavy lumpish fear hath oft-times shaken me, and now it hath broken out. Another said, you know the poor in spirit are blessed. I am not such. You see your are empty of all good, you feel your burthen. I pray you goe your wayes. He turned his head afide, and stopped his eares: what though:

though you have done but little good, if you have but given a cup of cold water, &c. He thrusted him away with his foot, either (as some thought) being troubled with his shrill voice, or (as he replyed) through the Devils subtilty. That evening he was grievoully affliced. Suddenly he brake out; oh if God! The standers by endeavoured to cherish this good metion, and said to him, He will give you grace. I doubt it. Then presently after he uttered this prayer, oh God, give me a spark of grace, and enlarge my heart that it may apprehend it. He asked a friend, how he might give satisfaction for some speeches.

Mr Ded, although he departed on Saturday, and had then an unfeafonable journey, yet being requested by letters, re-

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turned on Tuesday following. He at the first sight started up, as defirous to meet him, oh M' Ded, and in friendly fort complained, I have no grace. I will not (faith Mr Dod) beleive every one that faith he hath grace, nor every one that faith he hath none: Anfwer the Devil as Christ did. A man must not alwaies be led by sense, Let us enquire by the effects, and it may fuffice, if we can finde but one, yea the least it is enough. You forgive your enemies, and love them, and would doethem no hurt if you could? Yes. Then your finnes are forgiven. An Hypocrite may give alms and fast, but this he cannot. That is a small matter. I think it to be a great one, yea, fuch an one that I had need to pray for; That is put for a reason in the Lords Prayer, and if Christ

Christ had thought any more forcible, he would have given it. Sir, that is true, but in those that are elected. Doe not you put an exception, where God hath not. I would not handle you as I doe, but that I know your estate: I come hither to cherish you, you love your good friends? Icannot. Had you rather that bad or good men should be with you? Good. Yet you fay, you doe not love them: A fow will be with fwine: There is no fellowship between light and darknes. Would you believe your self, or the Physician touching the estate of your body ? The Physician. Believe not your self then, now you are fick, yet shall be restored. it is impossible. Why lo? If you had finned so much as you could, you could not have finned to much as Adam,

yet he is in Heaven. It repented him. Doth it not you? No. Doth vour ficknes or finne more trouble you, or had you rather have grace, or health? Grace. Well then. But it cannot be. God will wash you. I have no water. God will bring it with him. He hath denyed it. He hath offered it by his Ministers, which are as the buckets to draw and pour it. You must not look now that God should come to you himself. Doe you think it a small favour of God that so many good friends come to you? God did fend none to comfort Cain or Ahithophel. Think of that faying of Manoahs wife, If the Lord would kill us, he would not have shewed us all these things, Judg. 13.23. Behold the properties of Christs sheep: They are 1. Weak,

1. Weak, 2. Sick, 3. Broken, 4. Driven away, 5. Lost, Ezek. 34.4. You are fuch, fee therefore your comfort, he will 1. ftrengthen, 2. heal, 3. binde up, 4.bring again, and 5.feek you. You finde your self a great debtor: the Lord hath pardoned: onely he looks that you should come to him for an acquittance. This fight is not yours, but the Lords, 2 Chron. 20.20. put your trust in him. If you ask me, how may I? it followeth, Beleive his Prophets, and you shall prosper. You may remember that Christ did pray for Peter, that his faith might not fail, but it failed afterwards. How came that to passe? That failing did rather strengthen it. For whereas he gloried that if al should deny Christ, yet he would not: had he been asked, Doest thou promise this by

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by thine own strength, or by mine ? he must have answered, Mine, for otherwise he would have requested his help, making him hereby to feek to Christ for the strengthening of his faith. This happeneth to you, because you credit the suggestion of carnall reason, and not the word Oh the cunning of the adversary! deal not with him by cunning, but hold him to the Word, seek for strength in God to refift him. You may fee the Apostles in the tempest, it was from their weaknes that they distrusted, yet of God that they prayed. I cannot pray. Here what St fames faith, Is any man fick, &c. afflictions further prayer, but most sicknesses hinder: wherefore behold your friends, whose mindes as the Lord hath stirred up to pray for you: so will he

he also stirre up himself to hear them. Their prayers are yours, yea, you have the prayers of many which never knew you. And as God said to Cain, finne lyeth at the door, ready as it were to doe him an ill turne: so his promiled bleffing doth as it were expect you. If your falvation were now in your own hands, it is likely you would yeild up all: but your name is written in the heart of Christ. Sir, let me watch with you this night. No. Why? because it would hurt you. He (fearing the conclusion) said, Here is a snatching argument : nay rather, I will not suffer you, because you would trouble me. In the morning M. Dod came again to him, and asking him how he did, he answered, wretch edly, lamentably, abhominably, no stamp of grace in me. Doe you defire

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defire to be eased? Infinitely. Oh if God would give me u drop: I was so foolish that I would alwaies be doing something, but did nothing well. I pray you tell me what was the calling of the good thief upon the crosse ? Doe not you think that God can put a distinction between his grace and our corruptions? Behold the Church sometimes helples and hopeles, and fonab in that his bed, God feeth you, though you fee not him. But I feel horrour. Where misery is, there is grace much more: Then especially appeareth the excellency of the Physician, when health is least hoped. The Devil doth abuse your minde and tongue against your felf: but doubt not, the

the Lord will cast down the strong holds of carnall reason. Onely doe not suppresse that grace of God, which although it appeareth but finall, as big as a mans hand, yet it shall be increased into a mighty rain, by which your dry foul shall be moistened. Christ rising again, did first appear to Mary Magdalen that finner, after commanded her to tell it first to Peter, which had denied him. See thence his mercy. The godly in their afflictions doe but forget their comforts; God helps their memory, helps all. The godly losing his sense of Gods favour, is like to a man that hath loft his purse, which if he could finde, he were rich enough. But the wicked cannot be brought to remembrance,

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remembrance, because they never knew it. Thus he fuffered him to rest a while, afterwards returning with others, prayed. Then he was asked, how he did. Miserably. Doe not you fearch into the fecrets of God. It is too true and manifest. Sir, doe not alwaies be digging in at your finnes. A wound continually rubbed cannot be cured. Suffer the plaisters of the Word of God to rest upon it, that it may be holpen. Oh, if I had ! Oh, if it would please God! I had rather then any thing in this or other three thousand worlds. Who now giveth this defire unto you? Of our felves we cannot think a good thought: God giveth both the will and the deed. A defire is a fure . token.

token. But I cannot truly defire. You doe not desire fallely, therefore: truly what doe you dissemble ? Here is a trick. You must needs distinguish between unperfect desire and hypocriticall. Will you know whether your desire be true? There are two fignes thereof: Constancy, and a conscionable using of the means: You have found these in you, doth this argument hold? You do not feel, therefore you have it not? I know when you would have denyed fuch an argument: If that did follow, it should fare well with the Reprobate, he hath no sense of the wrath of God, therefore he is not under it. Elizabeth said, Whence is it that the mother of the Lord should come unto me ? furely from their

de- their Christian heart. Truly le- I could hardly have come to doe you, but that I thought I ck. was bound in conscience, because I know you to be the nd fervant of the Lord: When you were well, if we should have come with proofs out of the Word of the Lord, you would have believed us. Tes. Why not now when your judgement is blinded? Oh, the Judgement of God! Call it as he calleth it, Corrections. oh, my insensible heart! Oh, dead! A dead man cannot perceive himself dead, and God quickneth the dead. Oh, if he would enlarge my heart! This defire is good; But it is without favour. God in mercy will yeild you a comfortable rellish : Consider I pray you; whereas man may object, The Lord

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Lord is strong and terrible. It followeth, Mercifull withall. But I am backward in feeking it. He is gracious, more forward then thou canst be backward: but I have provoked.Him; he is flow to anger: but my finnes are great, but he is abundant in goodnes and in truth. The Lord hath promised that he on his part will be our God, and we on our part shall be his people. For a while he commended him to God: shortly after returning, he prayed with him. Cast your burthen upon God. He hath rejected me. Who made you his counfellour ? Secret things belong unto God, but revealed things unto us: will you make Almanackes ? He doth manifest it: Oh mine abominable bringing up of youth! he withall groaned

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groaned most deeply. If you had done as well as the justest man, you should stand in need of the merits of Christ. I, or another may bring arguments, but it belongs to the Lord to fasten them on the heart. I say to you as Noah did to Japhet, God perswade faphet, &c. What if your finnes were as crimfon, God can make them as snow. That is true of those that are capable. Behold, we make your estate our own, we have part in your forrow: who hath thus (think you) disposed our hearts? God. And doe you think that he which causeth us to love you, doth not love you himself : I fear I did too much glory in matters of private service to God. The neerer we come to God, the more we see our own vilenesse. This is the use which I make of C.4.

it, bleffed be God which hath not put our estate in our own hands, but kept it in his. The Devil hath now winnowed you, and you think all is gone out, but God holdeth what is his. An Artificer can distinguish drosse from the metall, cannot God his from yours? Well, with 70b lay your hand on your mouth, and hold your peace, and fogood rest have you: Onely consider your comfort, though it be but fmall, whence it came, even from Gods Word and servents, no otherwife.

M. Dol.

When he returned again to take and give farewell, he began to complain: Oh, great and grievous! The Lord knoweth what power he hath given you: A father will put a greater burthen upon a stronger sonne. But see the difference. When an earthly

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earthly father or master setteth. his-on work, they must doe it with their own strength; but. the Lord setteth on work, and. giveth strength to be not discouraged. You are now in your calling: Oh, mine heart is miserable! What then? A father loveth his. sonne as well when he is sleep. ing, as when he is waking, Sir, I have known you heretofore, and although, if I were in your. case, I might doe as you doe, yet I remain the servant of God, as you certainly are. The Holy Ghost calls to your remem-. brance what you have heretofore taught, and now heard: And although I shall be absent in body, yet shall I be present in minde. Be not too covetous to feek abundance by and by. If Pacob could say to Esau, I have feen thy face, as though I had C5

feen the face of God, much more should you think so of the children of God that come to you. I thank God (faith he) he hath begun to ease me. He will in his good time. God grant. Thus he took his last farewell. Although wve depart from our friends in the way, yet vve shall meet at the end. One told Mafter Dod that he had uttered fuch words. Now the Lord bath made me a spectacle. Whereupon he counfelled one that attended on him, to be sparing in admitting commers in, or speakers, lest his brain should be too much heated. A friend of his comming to him, asked him, Dare you murmure and repine against God ? Why should I fo? God be bleffed. It is a figne of grace. But I have no meanes. You have had them offered. But not given with

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effect. They shall, I doubt not. God grant: but I doe not feel it.

He received a letter from a friend very respective, and much M. Bolton. respected of them both: wherein were written these very words: "I heard, I know not hovy true, "that our dear Christian friend "M' Peacock is in great danger: " which hath much greived and "afflicted my heart, and vvrung "from me very bitter teares. If "his extremities be fuch, his tence tations are very like to be fore. " Tell him from me asone vvho "did ever, with dearest inti-"matenes knovv and converse " with him)that I can affure him "in the word of life and truth; "fro a most just and holy God, " whose Minister I am, That he "is undoubtedly one of his & Saints, designed for immorta-"hity, and those endles joyes in another

another world. When it was read to him; at those words I can assure him, &c. (he said) Oh, take heed, take heed, doe you think he vyould or durst affure you, unles he knew on what grounds? I did deceive my felf, now God bath revealed more. Another time one requested him, that he would make his friends partakers of the least comfort that the Lord bestovved upon him, as they had been partakers of his grief. If I bad it, I would willingly communicate its Search and take notice of the least. How should I have any; since God denyoth the means? doe you think sense is a fruit of faith? Yes, at this scason, although the husbandman hath fown much, yet he feeth nothing above ground. Applications doe not prove, hold your peace, my bears is troken. Then

Then the promife is yours. I would gladly ask you one thing, Now you will ask twenty. Doe you feek for grace in your heart? I cannot. How then can you know whether it be there or no? It is dead. The Lord in whose hand the disposing thereof is, dispose it for your good and his glory. Ithank you. What doe you think of that place, Whose fins you remit, they are remitted, &c. You know how farre they may goe. Howfoever, Sir, the bargain is not now to be made between God and you. Shortly after came one whom he much exteemed. oh I love (faid he) your company, for the graces in you, and much more to the same purpose. Suddainly he brake out into this ejaculation, oh God, reconcile me unto thee, that I may tast e one dramme of thy grace, by

which my miserable soul may receive comfort. One fecretly willed that man to defire him to repeat it again. Doe not trouble me with repetitions. There being a sermon, he bade them about him goe thither. After he called one, and asked him whether the preacher (being acquainted with his course of preaching) did use his accustomed divisions. He told one, Satan had borne him in hand, and had deluded him : to who the other answered, I hope that God will restore you as before, to glorify him here. No. No. Yea, if you were weaker, I would hope notwithstanding. I desire nothing more. God be thanked, you have laboured carefully for his glory. I would labour after another fashion. In the night he prayed and repeated his belief. And after resting a while,

he called the fe that watched with him, Bear witneffe, I faid not, I believe, but in generall, and as desiring that I might believe. One comming to visit him; asked him, How is it with you? My minde was grievoully puzzled with fundry distractions this night, but now I feel my burthen more light, I thank God. He was put in minde of that place, Isa. 54.8,11, 12, &c. Ohthon afflicted and tofled with tempests, and not comforted; behold, will lay thy stones with faire colours, and thy foundations with Saphyrs; And I will make thy windowes of Agates, and thy gates of Carbuncles: and all thy borders of pleasant stones, &c. For a little while I hid my felf from thee, but with everlasting kindnes will I have mercy on thee. He lifted up his eyes: thereupon being asked what the Lord did say to his foul,

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foul, that had long refused comfort ? Take heed, be not too bold, look to the foundation. And then prayed. Lord grant mathe comfort of thy deliverance, and forgive me my foolishnes, that I may praise thy name. Then he complained of his idle speeches. Upon the Sabbath day one came to him, willing him to put his hand to a note of certain debts. This is not a day for that. We will goe to Sermon. God speed you. Now you cannot goe to Church to serve the Lord, I pray him to come to you. Amen. He hardly suffered any to stay with him. At evening one did read something to him in Master Downams warfare, and asked him, doe you think it to be true? Yes. Therefore you must not trust your sense: What not such as mine are? But I will not new dispute.

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dispute. When they were helping him up and putting on his cloathes; upon some occasion one faid to him to this effect : A childe will not much grieve at the laying aside of an old coat, when he hath a new made, Whe you shall put on that, there shall be no longer nakednes, the refurrection will amend all. To thefe that die in the Lord. No doubt you will dye in him, having lived inhim. I have answered you before. But I would not believe you in that case. The next day a friend of his being to greforth of town, asked him, whether he would have any thing with him, for he was to leave him, and knew notwhether ever he should see him again here. Look to your calling, that it be as well inward as outward: He counselled another; To be firring for the glory of God. To

To one standing by he said. I am thinking. What? on a form to get grace. Put your trust in God. So I doe. I omit how, and tell you that with great patience, he continually submitted himfelf to advise in any means for his good: In putting his temporall estate in order; he dealt mercifully with his poorest debtors, yea, with some which might well pay it. His worthy patron (for so he often called him) whom for honours fake I name, Sir Robert Harley, sent his man to him with some aurum potabile, together with a book which a Doctour had made in the praise thereof. Comming to him, and asking him how he did, oh (faid) he) if it would please God that I might live with him. Anon after he aid to one, I have been thinking of arguments by which I might pleade

pleade my cause with God, and I have found: But what if dying thus, I should be judged an Apostata? Man is not the Judge at whole Tribunall you must stand or fall. There came in many of our cheif Fellowes. One of them requested him to make confession of his faith willingly. But I would think of it first. Musing awhile, he called them. Truly my heart and foul have been farre lead, and deeply troubled with tentations and stings of conscience: but I thank God they are eased in good measure: Wherefore I desire that I be not branded with the note of a forlorne or Reprobate : Such questions, oppositions, and all tending thereto, I renounce: Now help me, and put me in minde. What doe you think of your former doctrine? Most true: Init I have lived, and will dye; I have not dealt

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dealt hypocritically in it. Are you willing to die? Truly I will tell you: my Patron who of late fent me potable gold, bath taken order that I might live with him contentedly in the Ministery: but I submit my self to the will of God. Doe you defire the glory of God, and the falvation of your brethren : Most: He pray memory, what meie? Doe you forgive all wrongs? Yes, and desire that mine may be: And now I thank you. Sir, I remember a thing wantonly done towards you, pointing at one present. You sent me a knife for a new-years-gift; and I tyed two verses to it, and sent it back: I pray pardon me if any thing ---- For mine unconsiderate speeches in the time of my tentations, I heartily and humbly ask forgivenes. You did then (laith one) feem to rely fo:newhat

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somewhat upon inherent righteoufnes, as if you fought in your self whereby you should be saved: Indeed we knew your con; versation to be unreproveable: No I dare not affirm it : I trust in nothing but in the name of Have you any certainty in him? I would not be pressed to a particular assurance in this grievous agony. We defire you to inform them that shall come unto you of your estate. My unability is great: They then praied, 1. Giving God thanks, that whereas beforethey had craved his mercy for his fervant, he had heard them, and manifested to his glory, how he never forsaketh his: And besought him, because he knew the malice of the enemy, to perfeat his good work, and not fuffer him to be tempted above his strength.

strength. Now, Sir, we tell you one thing to your comfort, We never heard you speak any thing against God or man, thorowout the time of your visitation, but wholly against your self. I have been bold thus to argue with God, If he hath shewed mercy to such and such, why should not I likewise have hope? He complained once, how, while he was visiting the sick, (In which work many poor fouls found the ready mercifulnes of his heart, and now feel a great want) he lighted upon doubts; which that he might more fully fatisfy, when the like might be moved, he studyed too earnestly. One brought him a note book which he had lent. (Alwayes willing to communi-cate what he had most private) Here is a book (said he) of great pains,

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pains, &c. To a stranger, a worthy gentleman that came to visit him, he said, The Lord is mercifull to me, and I have cause of rejoycing, &c. Afterwards a reverend Governour came to Dr Ayery, him, to whom he complained of his finne and mifery. You look not (faid he ) for any thing in your felt. No, for nothing. You would amend if you had space. Oh if I had---Certainly-- Think on this. As the Lord hath heard the ejaculations and grones of your spirit in your infirmity; so he will now. If he will be glorified by your life, you shall live; Submit your felf to him, let him choose for you. My faith is weak. All, you know, are here but in part, you defire notwithstanding to runne to that which is perfect: So you

you may fee how low many have been brought, some (said he) have been Idolatours, was not Manasses such an one ? Yes. And behold Gods fervants from the beginning of the Bible to the end, they have flipped. Lot had shrewd slips, but yet here the testimony of the Apostle of him, he was just and righteous. You have been wearied and heavy loaden. Tes. For fuch is the end of Christs comming: your defire is a token of favour: For by how much the neerer we come, the more we thirst. Think now on his loving kindnes; he hath begun, and he will finish whom you have ferved. I did endeavour, but vile imperfections, &c. It is our greatest perfection here to see our imperfections. Shortly after came to him many young Gentlemen to whom he faid,

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faid, Live in Gods fear, that you may die in his favour: Otherwise the Oxe and the Ase will condemn you; I spent my time foolishly and prodigally. You have (faid one) remembred that sufficiently; Remember also Christ. That is true, Christ is to be remembred, and our sinnes to be remembred also.

The night following, which was Wednesday night, the Sun of Righteousnes spread gracious beams at his setting, which were comfortable tokens of a glorious rising. His last swan-like song, as he uttered it, was pen'd by some as he uttered it. One comforting him by his bead-side some two houres or more before his death, he brake out into these specification and specification and setting at explication.

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get Deus ijs quos semel dilexerit, ut eos nunquam deserat, atg, ideo me in cælos transiturum pro certo habeo: Felicissima sunt ea vincula in qua me conjecit Deus benignissimus; You all expect that I should declare what I thinke of my own salvation: God is so indulgent to those whom he hath ever loved, that he never forfakes them, and therefore I am affured I shall goe to Heaven: Most happy are those fetters into which I was cast by a most mercifull God. One telling him, You have fought a good fight, &c. he said, Expetit, expedit ut contendam ad cælum; Tollite, Tollite, Eripite, Eripite, ut cælum adeam : Deus indulget ingenuitati bonorum. It is requisite, it is requifite that I should contend for Heaven: Take me up, take me up,

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up, carry me hence, carry me hence, that I may go to Heaven; God doth cherish the ingenuity of the good. Being put in minde of Gods mercy towards him, he made answer: Oh, the sea is not so full of water, nor the Sunne of light, as God is of goodnes, his mercy is ten thousand times more. Being like wise remembred of Gods goodnes towards him, in filling his heart with such comforts, after so great tentations, he faid: I due (God be praised) feel such comfort from that : What shall I call it? Agony, saith one, Nay, that is too little: That had I five hundred worlds, I could not not make satisfaction for such an issue. Being moved to lift up his heart in token of thankfulnesse unto his God, he uttered these words: What, hall I extell the magnificence

of God, which is unspeakeable, and more then any heart can conceive? Nayrather let us with humble reverence acknowledge his great mercy: What great cause have I to magnify the great goodnes of God, that hath humbled, nay rather exalted such a wretched miscreant of so base condition to an estate so glorious and stately! The Lord hath honour'd me with his goodnes: I am sure he hath provided a glorious Kingdom for me. The joy that Ifeel in my heart is uncredible. He made likewise protestation of that which he alwayes before taught against ju-. stification by inherent righteoufnes, and appealing to the knowledge of some there prefent, what he continually maintained, in that (faith he) I still remain a Protestant. three chapters read to him, Revel.

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Revel. 19. Revel. 21. Rom. 8. oh, (saith he) They be glorious comforts: Will you have any more read ? Yea, a Pfalm, if you. please, and named the 23. One beginning to read it, he defired that it might be fung: One askinghim, Will you fing ? Yea, faid he, as well as I can. The Pfalm being fung, afterwards the 17. of John was read unto him: One comforting him by applying to him that in particular, which Christ in generall performed for the good of the: faithfull, he said, Bleffedbe God, very often, I am a thousand times happy to have such felicity thrown. upon me, a poor wretched miscreant. After a little rest, Lord fe. sus (said he) unto thy hands: Lord reservemy soul, Lord lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon: me, and be mercifull unto me. Then very weak he repeated the Lords prayer twice, and his Belief once very plainly, and distinctly with a strong voice, to the great admiration of the hearers: so he slept in the Lord.

December 4. Anno 1611.

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## The Post-script to the READER.

His copy of M. Boltons, and intended by him for the prese, was by M. Edward Bagshaw (oeverfeer of M. Boltons Will and specially intrusted for the printing of it) delivered about nine years fince to M. George Miller, Printer of M. Boltons works, to be by bim printed, as be had done his other books; M. Miller carried it to the Licenser, who kept it

## The Post-Icript

long in his hands, and at last refused it, as too precise for those times: while it was in the Licensers hands, one M. Milburne of intimate acquaintance with him, got a copy of it, and printed it about five years fince: but upon examination, the transcribed copy was found imperfect, and by that means the book proved unfaleable. When this present copy was almost printed, M. Miller had notice of such a book, and not before. This is thought fit to be made known, that the Reader might understand that this present copy is the onely true approved copy, and Li-

## to the Reader.

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censed by an eminent Dia vine of the Assembly, as a fit and useful book for these present times,

FINIS.

Imprimatur
Edm. Calamy.